

That's because it was discussed by none other than the President himself. The President of the United States is discussing confidential information in the public arena. And in the process, he's doing exactly the same thing that his office had admonished the President's attorney for doing earlier this year.

So here is what we have learned from the President's skirmish yesterday with reporters. First, he has now done a U-turn and allowed himself to get caught up in the mean-spirited attitude of his zealous political staff. Second, he has allowed himself to stoop to the level of the leakers and character assassins by discussing confidential information. Is this behavior befitting of what is expected of the President of the United States?

At the same time, the President has not kept his eye on the central issue—the clear need to right the wrong perpetrated by zealous White House agents.

Mr. President, this Travelgate issue is marked by a curious but telling phenomenon. At the beginning, the President was saying one thing, but the government he runs was doing the opposite. Obviously, we don't want or expect this in a Presidency. You want the President to say one thing, and have those in his control do that one thing, too. You want uniformity. You want the "saying" and the "doing" to be one and the same.

But there is another variable in the equation. In the Travelgate matter, the President's words reflected the right thing, and his staff's deeds reflected the wrong thing. So the President, in seeking uniformity, made the wrong choice. Instead of making his administration conform to his admirable utterances, he went native with the wrong side. That is why he is now attacking Billy Dale like his attorney did; and that is why he has suddenly decided he will not sign the bill.

Mr. President, this episode shows that the President has failed to uphold the principle of justice, fairness, and right vs. wrong in this matter. The test of any leader is to view his actions on matters that happen in his own back yard, or which affect him personally. [This is one such matter.] And to me, the President has failed that test of leadership.

By not doing the right thing—and in fact, by now joining the wrong side in the campaign to assassinate one's character—he has undercut his own moral authority as a leader. He has abdicated his responsibility to see that justice was done for seven of his own former employees and their families. He has abandoned his commitment to stand up for the little guy. In a sense—it is okay to stand up for all these high and mighty principles—jut not in my back yard.

And that is why, Mr. President, the President's about face in the Billy Dale matter is disappointing to me. And it tells me much about his leadership capacity.

I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO REAR ADM. ROBERT J. NATTER, U.S. NAVY CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Naval officer and dear friend, Rear Adm. Robert J. Natter, who has served with distinction for the past 33 months as the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided this legislative body, the Navy and our great Nation.

A native of Trussville, AL, Admiral Natter comes from a patriotic family of seven boys and two girls that has contributed immeasurably to our Nation's defense. All seven boys have served as commissioned officers in our Armed Forces—six in the Navy and one in the Air Force. Four graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, one was commissioned through Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps, and one attended Officer Candidate School. Two are currently Navy admirals. I salute this family who has served our Nation so well.

Admiral Natter enlisted in the Naval Reserve at the age of 17 as a seaman recruit. Following 1 year of enlisted service and 4 years at the Naval Academy, he was graduated and commissioned an Ensign in June 1967.

Admiral Natter's service at sea includes department head tours in a Coastal Minesweeper and Frigate, and Executive Officer tours in two Amphibious Tank Landing Ships and a Spruance Destroyer. He distinguished himself in combat as Officer-in-Charge of a Naval Special Warfare detachment in Vietnam. He later commanded the guided missile destroyer U.S.S. *Chandler* and guided missile cruiser U.S.S. *Antietam*. He has been the recipient of many awards and commendations including the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

As the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs, Admiral Natter has provided timely support and accurate information on Navy plans and programs. Working closely with the United States Congress, he helped maintain the best-trained, best-equipped, and best prepared Navy in the world. His strong leadership provided a legacy of innovative, affordable and technologically superior naval systems and platforms for those who will serve in the Navy decades after he steps down as the Chief of Legislative Affairs. His consummate leadership, integrity, and tireless energy serve as an example for us all.

Mr. President, Bob Natter, his wife Claudia, and daughters Kelly, Kendall, and Courtney have made many sacrifices during his 30-year naval career. They have made significant contributions to the outstanding naval forces upon which our country relies so heavily. Admiral Natter is a great credit to

both the Navy and the country he so proudly serves. As this highly decorated combat veteran now departs to take command of the United States Seventh Fleet, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish him fair winds and following seas. He is a sailor's sailor.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN WAYNE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, John Wayne, "The Duke". The mere name evokes in people around the world powerful images and fond recollections of the late actor and great American. Though he has been gone for 17 years, his spirit clearly lives on through his many movies and in the minds of his millions of fans. On August 17th, hundreds of people who admire this great man will gather in Los Angeles, CA to pay tribute to an individual who is a legend and an institution.

Americans are a tough lot. We are a nation that was founded by men and women of great courage, strength, and morals. It took tough and determined people to win our independence from the British; to fight for the cause of the Confederacy or the Union; to tame the wild west; to twice lead the world to victory in two vicious global wars; and, to have led the fight against forces bent on subjugating the freedom loving people of the world under the corrupt doctrine of godless Communists. Americans are individuals who admire self-reliance, honesty, and fairness, and without question, John Wayne was someone who personified these traits as a man, and who brought these qualities to the silver screen through his prolific career as an actor, director, and producer.

In countless movies, John Wayne portrayed mythic figures of American lore. Characters that included cowboys, lawmen, soldiers, sailors, and marines in films such as "Stagecoach," "The Sands of Iwo Jima," "The Fighting Seabees," "The Shootist," "The Green Berets," "True Grit," and dozens of other titles that soon became classics. It was impossible not to admire John Wayne and the roles he played for they all embodied the ideals that Americans hold dear. Moviegoers knew that if "The Duke" took a swing at someone, they deserved it, or if John Wayne fired a weapon, it was only to protect the life of an innocent person, to uphold the law, or to help defend the Nation. The characters John Wayne played were decent men committed to doing what is honorable and just, and for those reasons, he will be remembered as a American icon for many generations to come.

Mr. President, the United States is a nation that is made up of men and women who labor tirelessly to make our country a better place. Few people think about the police officers and firefighters who put their lives on the line, or the tens of thousands of service members spread around the world protecting American security, or the